

### **REMARKS**

Claims 8, 13-16 and 24-31 are pending in the present application. Claims 29-31 have been presented herewith. Claims 1-7, 9-12, and 17-23 have been canceled.

### **Drawings**

The Examiner has required that Figs. 6-8 be designated as "PRIOR ART". Accordingly, enclosed are three (3) marked-up Drawing Annotated Sheets, wherein Figs. 6-8 have been denoted as "PRIOR ART". Also enclosed are three (3) Drawing Replacement Sheets, incorporating the above noted corrections. **The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt and acceptance of the Drawing Replacement Sheets.**

### **Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 103**

Claims 1-7, 9-12 and 17-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art in view of the Kokubu reference (Japanese Patent Publication No. 5-136252).

### **Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicant respectfully notes the Examiner's acknowledgment that claims 8, 13-16 and 24-28 are allowed.

**Claims 29-31**

Claims 29-31 as presented herewith are respectively dependent upon allowed claims 8, 13 and 24. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 29-31 should therefore be found allowable at least by virtue of dependency upon allowed claims.

**Conclusion**

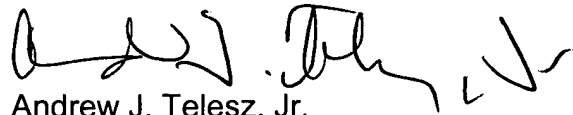
As noted above, claims 1-7, 9-12 and 17-23 have been canceled. Accordingly, since all pending claims should be allowable, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the claims of the present application to issue.

In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, please contact Andrew J. Telesz, Jr. (Reg. No. 33,581) at (571) 283-0720 in the Washington, D.C. area, to discuss these matters.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment for any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0238.

Respectfully submitted,

VOLENTINE FRANCO & WHITT, P.L.L.C.



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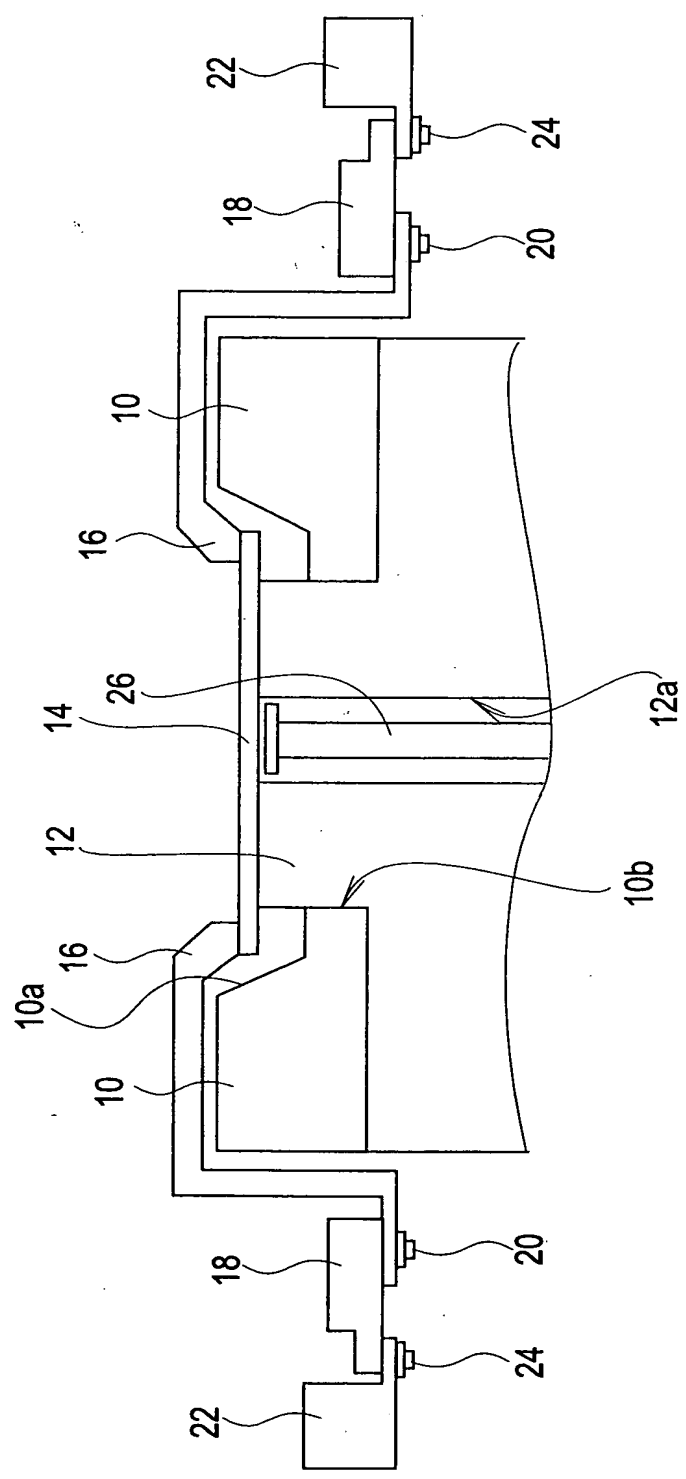
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Enclosures: Three (3) Marked-Up Drawing Annotated Sheets  
Three (3) Drawing Replacement Sheets



ANNOTATED SHEET

FIG. 6  
PRIOR ART



ANNOTATED SHEET

*FIG. 7*  
PRIOR ART

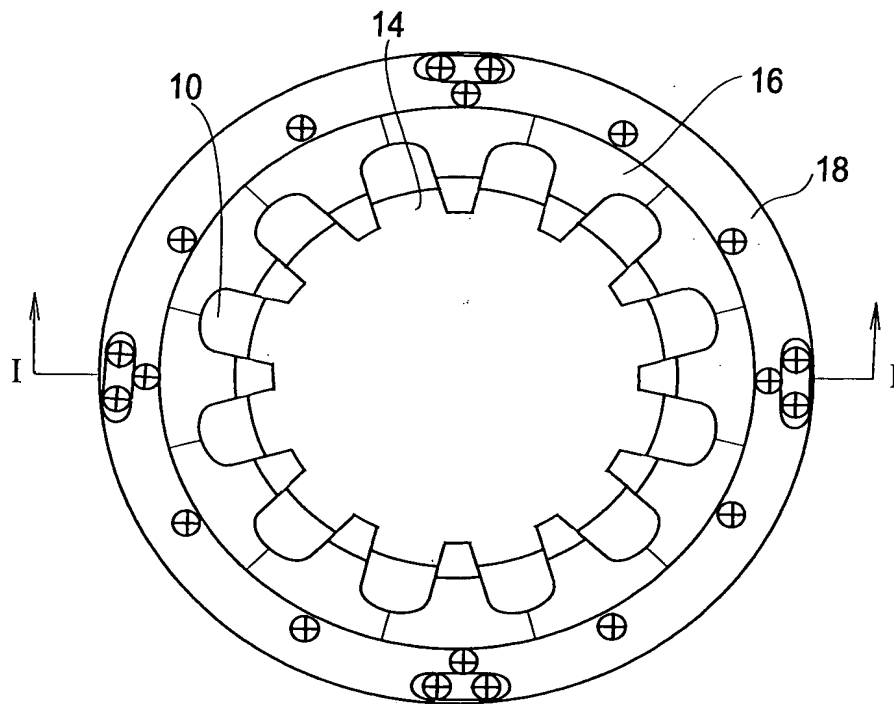


FIG. 8  
PRIOR ART

